

**From:** charles  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 7:48pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom read this,

I am a 18 years old consumer who purchases and enjoy Microsoft products. I wish to make a statement about the antitrust cases against Microsoft by Department of Justice.

My statement:

I buy Microsoft products according to my own choices. I buy Microsoft products because the softwares provide me what I want: a word program, an excel file, an email bookkeeping system, an easy to use operation system, and consumer service. Those are why I buy Microsoft products. Microsoft did not force me to buy their products. I choose to buy freely. Microsoft softwares allow me to complete my tasks without a difficult. I don't see how Microsoft been cheating me because I am receiving benefits from Microsoft products and no negatives. I find it unhappy that the Department of Justice is attacking Microsoft for provide good products.

What did Microsoft do? Being monopolist? I wish to remind you that monopoly means: 1. Exclusive control by one group of the means of producing or selling a commodity or service, 2. Law. A right granted by a government giving exclusive control over a specified commercial activity to a single party. Those definitions are from [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com/) <<http://www.dictionary.com/>> . Now I want to make you see that Microsoft is not a monopoly.

Is Microsoft a monopolist? No. Why? There are other competitors in the software market. There is Sun Microsystems, Apple, Corel, IBM OS/2, Oracle, and hundred of Linux software distributors. Is Microsoft alone? No. The market is an oligarchic, a normal form of market that exists all over the world.

Is Microsoft a monopolist? No? Why? There is no law that says "Microsoft is the only producer of software for the computer and no company or a person shall compete with Microsoft." Therefore Microsoft does not possess any illegal monopoly.

I don't feel being robbed by Microsoft. Microsoft and I made a mutual agreement. I want softwares. Microsoft gives me softwares. I buy softwares. Microsoft gets money from me. I got 2 and Microsoft got 2. So we are even. I wish to remind you that the complaints against Microsoft did not began with the consumers or partners of Microsoft but the Microsoft's competitors. When the competitors saw Microsoft is being successful due to their excellent products, what they do? They go to the government and ask them to punish the winner. That is cheating. The

competitors don't want to compete with Microsoft because they want to do it in easy way by ask the government to intervene and pull Microsoft down. The government is doing the competitors' dirty works. That is not a free market but an element of socialism: government does works for businesses. Where is free competition? The freedom to compete against each other without government's helps? Government's job is to protect property rights and individual freedoms. I don't see anything in the US Constitution says, "Congress shall make law punishing the businesses for being successful" or "Congress may help business crushing their competitors" or lastly, "Congress shall regulate businesses."

I am proud to be the citizen of the freest country in the world and proud to hold the greatest degree of individual freedoms. But I do have the freedom to buy any software product from any provider I want to. I do not ask anyone to make that choice for me. I specifically did not ask the government to make that choice for me. It is mine to make. What products I want is mine to decide not the government. The government's job is to protect my right to buy any software from any provider not to trample my right to buy a product. United States of America is freest country where excellence, success, hard working, and intelligence is rewarded not punished like our relatives in another side of Atlantic Ocean. But right now, William Bill Gates III is being punished for making wonderful products for people like me to buy and enjoy. What crime did Bill Gates did? The crime is being successful? The crime is being clever? The crime is to win the competition? The crime is selling a product? What crime? Antitrust laws do not promote competition but to punish winners. I want my right to buy any software from any provider to be respected and I mean it. So, I ask you to respect my right to buy and Microsoft's right to sell. It is a free country not totalitarianism or am I missing a totalitarian revolution that took over America government?

Thank you and I expect Microsoft to be pardoned and the government to apology for violating my right to buy and Microsoft's right to sell.

---Charles R. Sterling, a citizen of the United States of America

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